

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2 and 10. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 2 and 10.

In Figure 2, what originally looked like two boxes both being referred as "400" has been redrawn to clarify that both "400" elements refer to the same storage unit.

In Figure 10, what originally looked like two boxes both being referred as "400b" has been redrawn to clarify that both "400" elements refer to a single storage unit.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks/Arguments:

The objections to the drawings are moot in light of the amendments made herein to figures 2 and 10, and to the specification. In amended Figure 2, the storage unit 400 was redrawn to clarify that it is a single storage unit. In amended Figure 10, the storage unit 400b was redrawn to clarify that it is a single storage unit. In the specification, the paragraph [0052] was amended to include the reference number of an element previously referenced in the paragraph and shown in the application as filed. The Applicant respectfully requests that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

In the specification, the paragraph [0001] was amended to more clearly recite a claim of priority to the referenced application. The Applicant respectfully requests that the priority objection be withdrawn.

Claims 17 and 57-76 remain in this application. Claims 1-16 and 18-56 have been canceled, with claims 16 and 44-56 being cancelled herein. Claim 17 was amended herein. Claims 61-76 have been added.

Any objections to and/or rejections of claims 16 and 44-56 are moot in light of the cancellation of those claims.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Claims 17, 57-58, and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneier, in "Applied Cryptography second addition". Claim 59 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneier. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 17 and respectfully requests that the rejections of claim 17, and claims 57-60 which depend on claim 17, be withdrawn.

As amended herein, claim 17 is directed to a file decryption apparatus that includes a switch unit that switches between (i) generating key information by decrypting an encrypted key using an input password, and (ii) reading key information from a key storage medium. As such, if a user of the apparatus has a key storage medium, key information can be obtained by inserting the key storage medium into the file decryption apparatus. If a user does not have a key storage medium, the user can enter a password to generate key information (i.e. to decrypt key information

previously obtained from the key storage medium). Thus, the user has a choice between the use of a password or a key storage mechanism to provide key information.

The Office Action asserts that paragraph 2, of page 181 of Schneier discloses switching between the key storage medium and password, to obtain the key information. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited portion of Schneier discusses the use of a smart card for temporary escrow of keys. As such, the smart card is used as a key storage medium that stores key information. However, there is no switching between use of a password and use of a key medium stored key.

Claims 57-61, in addition to being patentable because of their dependence on claim 17, are also patentable as including recitations not taught or suggested by any cited reference or combination of references.

The differences between Schneier and the claimed invention are further emphasized by newly added claim 62. In claim 62 it is clear that key information is stored both in a memory unit (in encrypted form), and in a portable key storage medium. A switch unit subsequently provides a choice to decrypt an encrypted file using key information obtained from the portable key storage medium, or obtained from the memory unit. If the portable key storage unit is used, no password input is necessary for decryption. If a password is provided, then no portable key storage unit is needed for decryption.

Claims 63-76, in addition to being patentable because of their dependence on claim 62, are also patentable as including recitations not taught or suggested by any cited reference or combination of references.

It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 12, 2005.

By: Candy Neu



Signature

Dated: April 12, 2005

Very truly yours,

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FIG. 2

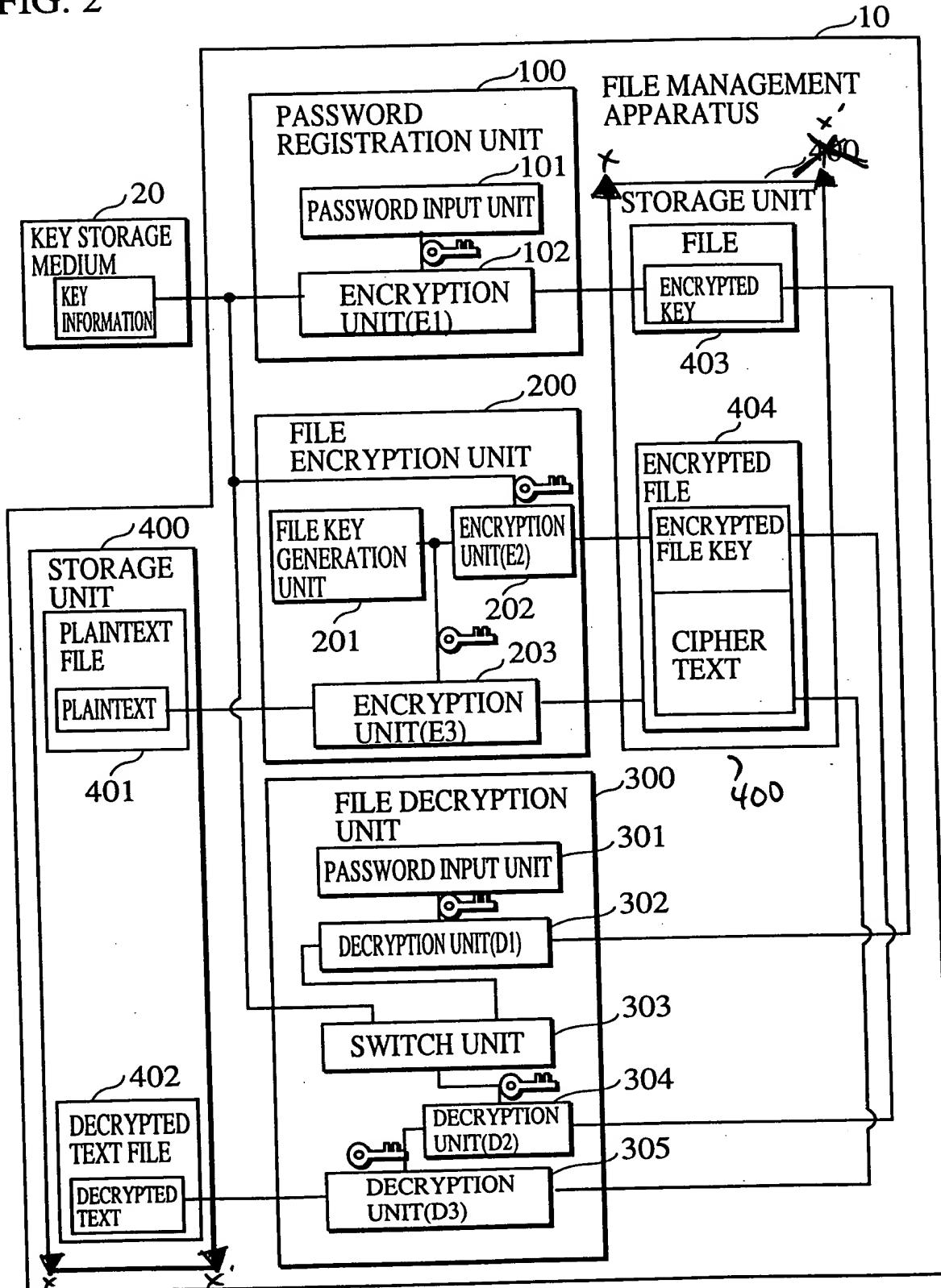




FIG. 10

